

West Valley City
Federal Legislative Agenda
2015-2016 Cycle

1. Marketplace Fairness Issues

Marketplace Fairness continues to be an ongoing issue and matter of discussion. West Valley City recognizes its great local business partners and their needs as well as those brick and mortar retail sales facilities. We encourage a fair analysis and methodology to level the playing field. West Valley City further advocates for a return of any sales tax recognized from this type of legislation be returned to municipalities as current sales tax is distributed.

2. Federal Transportation Funding

West Valley City continues to recognize that transportation funding is a substantial issue that must be discussed. Given that the needs are so substantial and because they are also regional the solutions must be found at the federal, state and local level. Therefore West Valley City urges Congress to authorize a new, long-term federal surface transportation program that recognizes the central role of transportation to metropolitan and regional economies and includes local voices in planning and project selection. With a strong federal partnership, cities can continue transportation and infrastructure investments that ensure everyone in our communities has access to education, training and employment. The program must provide cities a greater role in decision-making for transportation projects to meet community goals and recognize the role of metropolitan economies to the nation's economic wellbeing and competitiveness. The overall transportation system must be made more efficient, including upgrades to older systems and the addition of new modes like light rail and bus rapid transit.

3. Municipal Bond Protection

West Valley City opposes any attempt to eliminate or limit the traditional tax exemption for municipal bonds, whether as a part of a deficit reduction plan, a push for comprehensive tax reform or as an offset for new spending. As the Administration and Congress look for revenue to reduce the deficit and still fund programs, the federal income tax exemption provided to interest paid on state and municipal bonds (debt) is under threat. In addition to increasing taxes, the federal government can raise revenue by expanding what is subject to being taxed (broadening the base); as an alternative to raising taxes, interest paid on bonds issued by local governments currently not taxed could lose their exemption from taxation.

4. Federal funding – Grant Applications

- a. As in past years the City has multiple funding matters in play at the federal level. Including keeping a close watch on CDBG funds the following is a general list of funding we are currently pursuing.